

Kosovo's Culture, Youth and Sport

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NEWSLETTER



Kosovo welcomes her first world champion

Majlinda Kelmendi, Nora Gjakova and Driton Kuka were welcomed in Prishtina and in Peja in a splendid man-

ner by thousands of citizens, following the great success marked in the World Championship of Judo in Rio - Brasil, where Majlinda won

the gold medal whereas Nora Gjakova was ranked as seventh.

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Kosovo welcomes in a grandiose manner the judo champions







Kosovo welcomes her first world champion

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The whole welcoming event in Prishtina and the escort to the birth city in Peja was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Judo team was welcomed at Prishtina Airport upon landing by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi.

Following this, the winning team and the Minister Krasniqi held a press conference, where they spoke about the achieved success and plans for the future.

"Today is an extraordinary moment because our judoists are returning back with the greatest success for our sports. Majlinda's personal success is her own individual success, but of the entire Kosovo as well. Majlinda's and Nora's success is undoubtedly our greatest success. It is encouraging for young athletes. Our athletes now have a model to be encouraged for future successes. I am personally honoured to have had the opportunity to cooperate from the first day with the team of our judoists, having the possibility to jointly train in Kosovo and to raise our flag in the world", he pointed out, while he also added that from this week, based on the competences the Law foresees is going to propose to the President of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga, that Majlinda is decorated with the "Medal for the Merits". He said that Kosovo already has the required legislation regarding the athletes who

achieve remarkable success to be rewarded. In this case Majlinda is going to get for the gold medal from MCYS the reward in amount of 40 thousand Euros, while the trainer Driton Kuka 20 thousand Euros. Minister expressed his confidence that Kosovo is going to be part of the Olympic Games in Rio 2016 and the team of Kosovo state shall be led by Majlinda and is going to have even greater success.

Majlinda Kelmendi meanwhile added that she feels extraordinarily happy for bringing to Kosovo the first gold medal, and for this she said that she has worked a lot together with her trainer Driton Kuka, Minister Krasniqi and Judo Federation.

"I thank the minister for this welcome, but, besides we have cooperated a lot to come to this welcoming. Of course the greatest thanks I would like to dedicate to the trainer Driton Kuka, because I would not be here without him. Being a world champion from Kosovo is an extraordinary thing and I can say that the trainer is incredible. I dedicate this medal to the state of Kosovo. I am happy for the fact that all citizens recognise the value of this medal", Kelmendi said. She added that this result is going to serve her not to stop the work and to aim at medal in Olympic Games as well.

On the other hand, the judoist Nora Gjakova valuing the success of Majlinda, mentioned that for her career ranking on seventh po-

sition was a great success, having in consideration the number of competing judoists and the quality in her category. She said that she is going to work a lot to bring one more important medal to Kosovo.

Whereas the trainer Driton Kuka stressed that it was essential and significant for them the great and continuous support they received from the state of Kosovo, specifically from MCYS. "Today we brought Kosovo a gold medal, that has a value of millions for me. This success is great, especially after the disappointment from London, where both our prime Ministers and minister Krasniqi were present. I had promised that I am going to pay that debt, and here we are, we made it", Kuka said.

Following the press conference, the team and the delegation of MCYS got on a bus all branded with images of Kosovo champions. It went through several parts of the city of Prishtina to finally stop at 'Mother Teresa' square, where hundreds of citizens attended the welcome event organised by MCYS for the judoists. The team and the Minister Krasniqi addressed to the citizens saying that this common success, of the entire Kosovo isn't going to stop, but more work shall be done for other medals.

Following the ceremony in Prishtina, the bus departed heading to Peja, and there also a splendid welcome was made from citizens of Peja and local institutions. ■

Prime Minister Thaçi and minister Krasniqi welcome the world champion in judo, Majlinda Kelmendi

Prime-Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, accompanied by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, hosted in a meeting the world champion in judo Majlinda Kelmendi and her trainer Driton Kuka, and judoka Nora Gjakova and President of Judo Federation of Kosovo, Agron Kuka. In this case Prime-Minister Thaçi, based on the regulation for allocation of state rewards for athletes achieving high results in international competitions handed the decisions for the rewards in value of 40 000 € for the judoist Majlinda Kelmendi, respectively 20 000€ for the trainer Kuka.

Prime-Minister Thaçi expressed his gladness for hosting Majlinda as an athlete who has reached the top of the sports in judo, and she did all this on the name of the Republic of Kosovo. Prime-Minister congratulated the judoist Kelmendi and her trainer for the work they have done and for their achievement of the title of world champion, and he encouraged them to further pursue the way of success. "Government of the Republic of Kosovo keeps as one of its pri-



orities enhancement of Kosovar sport. Your example motivates us as institutions to continue the support also for other top athletes who manage to reflect in dignitary manner the sport of Kosovo in the international arena", the Prime Minister Thaçi said by adding that the success of Majlinda has made feel proud all citizens, and also the institutions of our country.

Meanwhile the Kosovar champion Majlinda Kelmendi expressed her thanks to the Prime-Minister Thaçi and the Minister Krasniqi for the support of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, specif-

ically MCYS is providing her and her team and also promised that in the future as well is going to bring trophies for the state of Kosovo. She also informed the Prime-Minister about the experience she had in Brazil. The judoist Majlinda Kelmendi during the meeting gave as a present to the Prime-Minister Thaçi one copy of the gold medal won in the World Championship in Brazil. While the Minister Memli Krasniqi symbolically distributed the cheques with the amounts of the rewards for the world champion in judo Majlinda Kelmendi and her trainer Driton Kuka. ■



CULTURESCAPES, the stage where people get close



In Basel in Switzerland the prestigious festival of culture CultureScapes opened. In this edition the culture from Balkans will be presented. In the opening evening the choir from 'Prenk Jakova' music school from Gjakova performed.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi was one of the invitees to open this festival.

MCYS is one of the main supporters of this edition.

Estimating this festival as highly important, Minister Krasniqi said that this edition is special as it presents a region consisting of eight states, coming with lots of varieties but at the same time with lots of similarities as well. CultureScapes, as the minister Krasniqi said is a

meeting place where the borders are crossed and people come closer to each other through art.

Kosovo and Switzerland and in particular the city of Basel, as he stated have a long lasting connection. Minister Krasniqi said that in this city many young people from Kosovo have showed example and that they have become an important



er through culture



image of Switzerland but also of Kosovo. In this view he mentioned the athletes from Kosovo, respectively Xherdan Shaqiri and Granit Xhaka, Arnold Gjergjaj and many others.

“We support these strong connections which are examples for expansion also in other fields especially in culture”, he said.

Minister further said that it was politics to often stress the differences in Balkans, but he also added that now everyone is working for the future to be built by promoting differences as a uniting value.

The Government of Kosovo is working a lot to support the artists towards promoting their work and thus our cultural stage as well to contribute as much as possible into connection amongst peoples and countries”, he said.

In the ceremony of opening, representatives of the government in Basel spoke as well and also leaders of the CultureScapes festival.

CultureScapes is estimated as one of the most important festivals of culture in Switzerland but also in Europe. Every year this festival organises edition for the cultural stage of a country or a certain region. ■

Cultural scene of Kosovo, a special part of CULTURESCAPES festival

Kosovo shall be part of this year edition of the cultural festival in Switzerland, specifically in CultureScapes. This edition is dedicated to the culture in Balkans and many artists are going to participate there. Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) has been one of the supporters of this festival; more specifically it supports financially the participation of our artists in this festival, beginning from 19 October.

To coordinate the activities in the future and to discuss for extension and expansion of cooperation, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted today in a meeting Benita Ortwein, Chief of Production in CultureScapes.

Minister Krasniqi pointed out that participation of our artists is another very important step in direction of promoting our cultural scene in the world, following participation in these two years in the most important events of culture in the world. He thanked the fund of CultureScapes for their cooperation. Minister said that this festival is one more opportunity for Kosovo artists to promote their work but to also extend cooperation with artists from all over the world. He added that artists from Kosovo shall undoubtedly be a special presentation in this festival. In the ceremony of opening of this festival the chorus of the school of music “Prenk Jakova” from Gjakova is going to perform.

Cultural diplomacy, as Minister Krasniqi said, has been and shall remain a priority of culture for the MCYS, thus expressing once again the initiative of the ministry to support participation of our artists in many culture events around the world, but there is no doubt that it is also for bringing artists from many countries to Kosovo. In this view, Minister Krasniqi expressed the readiness for the cooperation in between CultureScapes and cultural institutions in Kosovo to continue in the future as well.

Meanwhile, Benita Ortwein thanked Minister Krasniqi for the continuous support provided in this edition. Ortwein further added the fact that MCYS has been amongst the first supporters for this edition. She notified regarding the preparations which have been made for this edition, in particular with the program for Kosovo but also from the other countries. Ortwein said that this is a good opportunity to expand the areas of cooperation and also added that they have already made regular contacts also with artists from Kosovo, intending to have accomplishment of as many joint projects as possible.

CultureScapes is considered as one of the most important festivals of culture in Switzerland but also in Europe. Every year this festival organizes edition for the cultural stage of a country or region a certain region. This year is Balkans. ■





BICONICAL VESSEL

Millennium 7-6 BC; Ceramics;

Origin: Rumik (Skenderaj);

Location: Museum of Kosovo

13th Session of the European Cultural Parliament to be held in Prishtina next year



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi is attending the 12th session of the European Cultural Parliament (ECP), which is held in Edinburgh of Scotland this year. He met with Karl-Erik Norrman, the Secretary General of the ECP and Pär Stenbäck, the Speaker of the Senate in a bid to discuss a potential agreement to convene the 13th session of the ECP to Prishtina next year. Parties have agreed to call the next meeting in our country, judging it an important step towards promoting the cultural stage of Kosovo and establishment cooperation between the ECP, MCYS and other culture mechanisms in Kosovo and Europe.

Minister Krasniqi said that

holding this session in Prishtina is of a special importance for the culture of Kosovo, as it will serve to exchange experiences regarding development and promotion of culture. He said that MCYS will commit to ensure smooth preparations, substantive proceedings and significant attendance throughout Europe.

Minister Krasniqi presented the achievements in the area of culture in Kosovo but also challenges lying ahead.

He stated that Kosovo has a diverse cultural calendar and continues to incite the interest of many artists worldwide. He said that artists from Kosovo have shown considerable success in many

areas at various cultural events. He said that if more opportunities were extended to Kosovo it will give significant contribution to the European cultural stage.

On the other hand, leaders of ECP, Norrman dhe Stenbäck found the holding of next year's session to Prishtina as very important. They thanked the Minister for cooperation, stating that they would work hard to ensure that Prishtina session becomes a truly important event for culture in general.

In the sidelines of the session, the Ministry met also the many representatives of the political and cultural stage in Europe, who have been attending the activity.

The Edinburgh session focuses on freedom of speech, participation and promotion of overall cultural policies, along with individual creativity.

Tomorrow Minister Krasniqi will address a keynote to the session, at which he will speak about the developments in the cultural stage of Kosovo.

Kosovo is represented at the 12th session by the regular members of ECP from Kosovo, director of National Gallery, Erzen Shkololli, as well as recent members proposed by Minister Krasniqi, at the request of ECP, Veton Nurkollari and Eliza Hoxha. ■





Statement from MCYS on presentation of Kosovo teams in the BIBL Balkan League

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, greeted the historical debut of Sigal Prishtina in Balkan League, thus marking the first win of Kosovo basketball in international official competitions. First of all it is a win of all Kosovo.

This success has first of all witnessed before all sports community in the world but also to those loving sports, for our great passion and untiring work for the quality

and for interesting competitions. We would like to congratulate Sigal Prishtina, the players, chairmanship and the fans who have worked together to make a club comparable to European clubs.

Sigal Prishtina with the success and organization in the club has given a very good image to the capital city, but undoubtedly to the whole Kosovo in general.

Encouraging is the fact that for this great triumph, a significant

contribution has been given by the local basketball players. This is another indicator for the work done in the basketball of Kosovo and for the great potential we have in this sport.

We would also like to congratulate for the work and the match shown by Peja BC.

What is of significant importance now is the fact that we are becoming part of the international competitions and by working hard the success shall be reached.

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, has always been close to these two clubs to support even financially their debut into Balkan League. We shall remain nearby now and in the future for qualitative competitions and a much better sports environment in our rooms.

Finally, by expressing lots of thanks to the fans of both our clubs, we ask from them that in the future matches, especially in those developed in Kosovo to show the high level of support, thus avoiding incidents, as in this way we stay away from harming our newly started international journey in sports. ■



MCYS and KCC sign cooperation agreement with the Film and TV School of Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, FAMU



QENDRA KINEMATOGRAFIKE E KOSOVËS
CENTAR ZA KINEMATOGRAFIJU KOSOVA
KOSOVA CINEMATOGRAPHY CENTER

FAMU

"I am happy and proud that we reached this agreement with one of the best world academic institutions, and

FAMU is honoured to play the significant/essential role in development of Kosovo cinematography, by adding that students who are coming from Kosovo shall be the enrichment of the whole program as a film school.

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Kosovo Cinematography Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the film school and the television of Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, FAMU, for cooperation in provision of opportunities of audio-visual education for the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, in particular for the students of this field. On behalf of MCYS it was signed by the Permanent Secretary, Veton Firzi, for KCC, the director Fatos Berisha while from FAMU, it was the dean Pavel Jech.

Director of KCC, Fatos Berisha stated that it is an important step for the cinematography of Kosovo.

which will significantly change positively the film industry of Kosovo. Our cineastes from now on have an excellent opportunity of their professional advancement which they haven't had till now", he said.

The steering council of KCC also through the head Arben Zharku greeted signing of this agreement. "This agreement with the best academy of film in Europe is going to push forward the film industry and also is going to create a new spirit here. I believe that with this agreement we are going to make the dream true for many filmmakers from Kosovo. I consider it as a historical moment", he said.

While the dean Jech said that

Based on the Memorandum, FAMU every year is going to conduct workshops for specific practical aspects of creating films in Kosovo including writing of the screenplay, film production, production, camera, montage and alike. In these workshops there are the staff of FAMU who will lecture. KCC shall work on selection of students and cineastes who are going to participate in these workshops.

Besides, with this Memorandum KCC and MCYS undertake to finance the Master studies for one person in FAMU for one year, starting from the academic year 2014-15. The same applies also for doctoral studies at the moment they start in FAMU. Also by this memorandum, FAMU shall ensure a place for one student citizen from the Republic of Kosovo for the five week summer program.

FAMU International is a permanent department of FAMU which provides accredited and certified programs of studies and short term courses in English. FAMU and FAMU International provide several two year programs and three year Master (MFA) in the field of creating films and audio-visual studies and a practical program of one year duration for film production called Academic Preparation Program (APP). ■





“Albaniada”, a competition event to promote and cultivate cultural heritage

The village of Kukaj, nearly 30 km to the east of Prishtina, played host to the second edition of traditional games “Albaniada”, an event that serves to present aspects of ethnos through games, music, humour and dance. The competitors in 20 games provided great entertainment, which made the event even more appealing, a no less important part of promoting and cultivating our cultural heritage.

More than 60 medals were awarded at various disciplines, such as: Hats (Kapuça), Measure and Stick (Kut e Kleçkë), Crouch (Guxhas), Ball-on-Horse (topn-kali), Arm Wrestling (rrëzim i duarve), Bag Hopping (vrapim me

thes), Leg Wrestling (rrëzim i këmbëve), Boards (rrasash), Capture the Handkerchief (kapja e shamise), Rope Pull (tërheqja e litarit), Stone Throwing Sideways (gurapesh me dy duar anash), Overhead Stone Throwing (gurapesh prapa), Single-Hand Stone Throwing, etc.

Present at the opening of this year edition was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, who along with the event facilitator Ekrem Tahiri, lit the torches, thus marking the start of competition. Minister Krasniqi said that these events contribute to protection, preservation and cultivation of our cultural heritage.

“We are gathered here at the

second edition of ‘Albaniada’ to promote one of these important elements of our heritage, our traditional games and sports. If the first edition of ‘Albaniada’ was about promoting this important part of our heritage, I am glad that this year, in addition to the element of promotion we also introduced an element of competition, which was always at the heart of these traditional Albanian sports”, said Krasniqi at the opening ceremony.

He further stated that it had been the goal of MCYS to expand and ensure wider participation that would transcend the geographical borders of Kosovo through activities of this nature such as this particular heritage event. “It is our goal and objective to ensure that in the coming years, Albaniada may accommodate more sports and games, participants and teams so that our traditional sports and games may be represented by a larger number of Albanian areas, transcending Kosovo, including regions where Albanians have been living for centuries,” said the Minister of Culture, Memli Krasniqi. ■



The five-day Handicraft Fair was held in Prishtina

The Women's Centre "Dera e Hapur" (Open Door) will organize in Prishtina the Ninth Handicraft and Cultural Heritage Fair 2013, which is traditionally held since 2005 as part of Days of European Cultural Heritage in Kosovo. The fair, which is considered as the largest handicraft event in Kosovo, promotes the cultural heritage of our country whereby, for five days, "Mother Theresa" square will host exhibits of various handicrafts ranging from clothing, wood, metal to traditional food.

Present at the today's opening of the fair, a project supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) were the Secretary General of the Ministry, Veton Firzi and mayor of municipality of Prishtina, Isa Mustafa.

Secretary Firzi expressed his gratitude on behalf of MCYS and stressed that MCYS included the Handicraft Fair into the calendar of activities of the ministry as a result of cooperation of institutions with NGOs and owing to the efforts of the people involved in the process. "Activities of this fair are very important. In addition to exposing their work, crafters will also promote the values of our cultural heritage. Preserving the old handicrafts is the priority of the ministry and we will continue



to support it as part of various programmes. The support is based strongly on cultivation and promotion of our tradition spanning multiple years provided by various craftsmen from Kosovo", said secretary Firzi, adding that with the support of other levels, these crafts may be well converted into small economies, which in addition to preservation, would help generate incomes for craftsmen while also encouraging younger generations to cultivate and promote our cultural heritage and tradition.

Whereas the mayor of municipality of Prishtina, Isa Mustafa, said that the fair was important because it serves to exhibit cultural and artistic values of Kosovo and other areas participating in the event, stressing that municipality would support the work of women, both

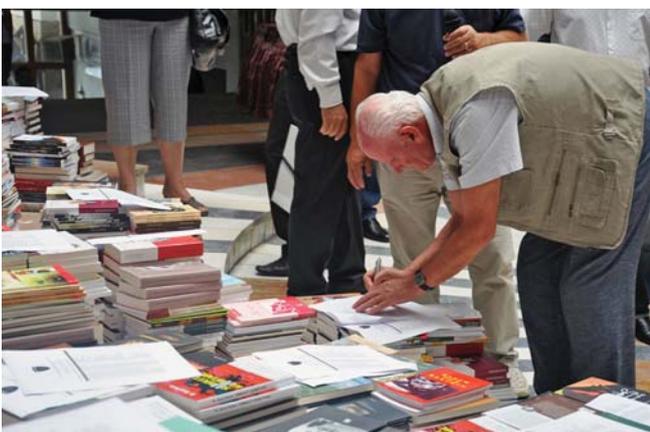
in terms of production as well as exposure. "As municipality, we will make every effort to support the women, to support the cultural values they exhibit, to support the values that describe our cultural heritage and which add to our values such as: education, culture, sports, production", said Mustafa, judging the fair as another opportunity for women to show what they can do in various fields of handicraft, exposing values of cultural heritage and other values we want to build in both Prishtina and Kosovo.

The opening ceremony also saw artistic performances of our national dances as well as those of the artist and designer of musical instruments Shaqir Hoti. This year's fair will be open from 26 to 30 September in the "Mother Theresa" Square. ■











MCYS distributed around 5000 books for 30 municipal libraries

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in an event ceremony distributed around 5000 books for 30 municipal libraries, where 70 different titles are listed. This is the first time that MCYS buys and distributes books

for municipal libraries, apart from the support providing also in the competition for cultural projects. Books are published in the two last years and they have been purchased through public competition by the Council of Books. In this competition the Council had decided to buy only 55 titles, and had also supported financing of publishing new titles, and for the first time also publication of literature magazines.

In the ceremony held in the National and University Library of Kosovo there participated the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, Director of NULK, Sali Bashota and directors of municipal libraries.

Minister Krasniqi said in his speech that the event of today is the beginning of a new program of support for the book and the libraries, considering that it is the first time that MCYS buys newly published titles and we are distributing to the municipal libraries. Minister Krasniqi pointed out that in the two last years the support for the libraries and books has doubled, but also in general for the field of culture.

“I think that this fund is extraor-

dinarily important now when the new school year has started in the pre-university education, and soon the university academic year shall start as well, because it is creating more possibilities for the pupils and students. I believe that with the new forms of support, MCYS is implementing the funds of our libraries and it will help make it richer every year and will bring it closer to the reader”, said Minister Krasniqi, while he also mentioned that now such an activity is already traditional and MCYS shall always be near the libraries to support their fund in order to have it enriched as much as possible.

Director of NULK, Sali Bashota by highly appreciating MCYS for the libraries, added that NULK as a central librarian institution in Kosovo is going to work hard in future so that the municipal libraries are developed and enriched in their shelves as much as possible.

On the name of libraries Engjell Berisha, the director of municipal library of Gjakova had a speech. He thanked MCYS for making such an initiative, which according to him is highly useful, as he said that municipal libraries always are in need of new titles. ■





Minister Krasniqi meets his counterpart from Albania, Mirela Kumbaro-Furxhi

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi welcomed at a meeting his counterpart from the Republic of Albania, Minister of Culture, Mirela Kumbaro-Furxhi at her first official visit to the Republic of Kosovo. Minister Kumbaro – Furxhi was part of the delegation of the Government of Albania, headed by the Prime Minister Edi Rama, who chose Kosovo as the first country to visit. Both ministers, at an introductory and informative meeting, agreed that Kosovo and Albania represent a model of cooperation in many areas, especially culture and heritage, which are aspects that speak of a shared trait of Albanian nation.

Minister Memli Krasniqi, congratulated his counterpart on assuming office, while extending best wishes for successful work and accomplishment of goals, projects and policies laid out in her programme, thus advancing culture further. He also expressed his belief that the cultural cooperation between Kosovo and Albania will be further deepened in future through a calendar of joint cultural activities.

“Cooperation and strengthening the ties between our countries by promoting and preserving culture and tradition should continue in future

in many respects. We have already established a tradition of joint activities in many areas, such as cinematography, theatre, literature, music and heritage. The Museum of Kosovo plays host to the exhibition “One Nation, One Culture”, which speaks of this cooperation and represents one of the best joint work to date, however, it only represents a starting point for major projects in the future”, said Minister Krasniqi and expressed commitment to enhance the cooperation between the two countries by singling out the considerable potential of the youth that may indulge in arts and culture.

“We intend, and this has been and remains a goal of both our countries, to undertake concrete steps in our cooperation and interaction, thereby ensure coordination and programme of cultural activities”, said Minister Krasniqi.

On the other hand, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Alba-

nia, Mirela Kumbaro - Furxhi, expressed her gratitude for the hospitality and commitment to full cooperation that MCYS had extended to joint initiatives of the two countries. “I am happy that my first visit in the capacity of the Minister is to Kosovo, although I have yet to enter my own offices in the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Albania; but I am nonetheless here, in the offices of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Kosovo”, said Minister Kumbaro-Furxhi.

In addition, she also said that in discussion with Minister Krasniqi they agreed that in future cultural activities will be conducted through cooperation and joint projects with the view of enhancing and promoting the cultural life and cultural heritage. “Joint initiatives are truly a good experience and the indeed produce results through artistic and cultural exchanges. We share a history and culture and we look forward to achievements and successes on both sides of the border, therefore through joint projects, programmes and investments we will advance not only our culture but also our national consciousness”, she said, adding that by preserving its culture and heritage, the Albanian nation may look forward to a brighter future. ■



List of Cultural Heritage under Temporary Protection is Signed



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi signed the supplementations of the Temporary List of Cultural Heritage Monuments under Protection. In the earlier list there were 1,181 assets of heritage, while the List signed today contains 1,428 assets of heritage.

From the list drafted by Regional Centres of Cultural Heritage and the respective Commission within the Department of Cultural Heritage, there were removed 77 assets of various categories.

While, upon recommendation from these mechanisms, there were added 45 new proposals from the archaeological heritage, 77 monuments from architectural heritage and for the first time the temporary List for protection has covered the assets of movable heritage. Their number is in total 200.

Minister Krasniqi highly valued the signing of this list, considering it as a significant step for protection of cultural heritage, thus emphasising the need to make functional as soon as possible the Council of Kosovo for Cultural Heritage, and to afterwards begin with the work on drafting and adoption of the Permanent List. ■



Youth Week - a traditional activity organized by MCYS

In Junik the Youth Week started, which this time was organized in eight municipalities of Kosovo. Youth week is a traditional activity organized by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with various activities, where promotion of volunteer work is included, participation of youth and organization of various cultural and recreational activities.

This year the Youth Week was organized in the following municipalities:

Junik (05/09/2013),
Fushë Kosova (11/09/2013),
Rahovec (12/09/2013),
Istog (18/09/2013),
Lipjan (23/09/2013),
Malisheva (26/09/2013),
Podujeva (27/09/2013) dhe
Klllokot (14/09/2013).

The Youth Week in 2011 was held in the following municipalities of Kosovo: Prizren, Peja, Gjakova, Ferizaj, Mitrovica, Gjilan, Partesh and Prishtina.

In 2012 it was held in the following municipalities: Klina, Vushtrri, Deçan, Drenas, Shtime, Kamenica, Ranillug and Suhareka.

Through this activity MCYS aims at promoting youth values and engagement of youth on building a tolerant and integrating society in the spirit of mutual understanding; Increase of cooperation amongst the youth of all ethnicities and the youth vulnerable groups, on preparation and provision of a broad spectrum of activities; promotion of volunteer work at youth, their mobilization for youth activities, identification and strengthening of young talents, and broadening of space for activity for the NGO-s through promotion of municipal potentials. ■

Initiatives for cultural cooperation between Kosovo and France

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted the Ambassador of France in Kosovo, Maryse Daviet with whom the up to date achievements were discussed in the field of culture, challenges and manners of cooperation in this field in between the two countries.

Minister Krasniqi informed the ambassador on the cultural activities organized up to date as successes achieved by our artists inside and outside the country.

In addition he stressed that the aim of MCYS for the future is to increase the budget and to provide more support to culture so that besides the numerous organizations of many events and cultural activities, to also provide the most dignified presentation of our cultural stage in the greatest cultural events in the world.

Minister Krasniqi also mentioned in particular and highly valued the cooperation that Kosovo and France have had till now in the field of culture and the support of many projects in the field of culture and heritage. Minister also expressed his dedication for this cooperation to grow, thus taking the initiatives and undertaking various joint activities thus creating a stronger connection between the two countries.

On the other hand the ambassador Maryse Daviet expressed her pleasure for the work and engagement undertaken till now by MCYS, thus congratulating the minister for the support and the promotion of culture in general.

She expressed the readiness for the expansion of the cooperation in between the two countries, through cooperation and interaction on further improvement of the cultural life.

Minister and the Ambassador also agreed to realize the cooperation in a near future in the field of culture and cultural heritage, so that in the next year more joint activities towards enabling presentation of the cultural stage and cultural heritage of Kosovo in France but also that of France in Kosovo. ■



Minister Krasniqi met the Turkish actor Kadir Inanir

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi hosted the famous Turkish actor Kadir Inanir, who is staying for a visit in Kosovo.

Minister Krasniqi welcomed the actor and expressed high consideration for his to date career.

He informed the Turkish actor about the achievements in the field of cinematography in Kosovo, but also in general about the culture. He informed him about the increase of the subsidies for film and for international representation of our artists and creation.

Minister also mentioned that one of the priorities of the cinematography is the entering into cooperation with the centres of cinematography around the world. In this aspect, he considered as highly important that Kosovo and Turkey enhance their cooperation in the field of cinematography, that in a near future to have joint film projects. He further informed that Kosovo and Turkey are going to soon sign agreement for cultural cooperation.

On the other hand the Turkish actor expressed his pleasure regarding the visit in Kosovo and thanked the Minister Krasniqi for his welcome. Inanir highly appreciated the cultural cooperation that Kosovo and Turkey have.

He promised that he personally shall work to enable future co-production between Kosovo and Turkey. ■





CASTLE OF HARILAQ
Centuries 6-4 BC; Roman Period;
Location: Harilaq (25 km west of Pristina).

No. 11, Year II.

Minister Krasniqi hosted the leaders of the Albanian Football Federation in Germany

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, hosted in a meeting a delegation of Albanian Football Federation in Germany headed by the president Ruzhdi Statovci, accompanied by representatives of clubs and Albanian football players active in Diaspora. The delegation is staying in Kosovo to play the revue match in between the veterans of Prishtina club and diaspora and also for the match of Super cup between Prishtina, the winner of the Cup of Kosovo and Kosovo from München, as the winner of Diaspora Cup.

Minister thanked the President Statovci not only for the organisation of the sports life in Diaspora, but also for using football as an ambassador they are influencing on building the image of our state there, and he further appreciated the achievements of football players in Germany, be it in individual aspect but also in group and organisational aspect as well, including the Cup of Diaspora.

Moreover, Minister Krasniqi showed his full readiness and also that of MCYS to support and mutually cooperate with the Albanian



Football Federation in Germany, where, through various sports organisations exchange of experiences is enabled and thus increasing the quality, dedication to work with the youth, and thus our country has the most appropriate representation in the international arena.

Whereas, Ruzhdi Statovci, thanked the minister Krasniqi for his welcoming and readiness to provide support and also expressed his opinion that also in the future the cooperation shall continue.

The Albanian delegation also informed in detail minister Kras-

niqi about the organisation of the competitions there, the successes achieved and about the plans for the future the Albanian Football Federation in Germany has in order to improve and increase the quality of Albanian football in Diaspora, thus bringing up as many talents as possible.

The matches shall take place in the stadium of Prishtina, where famous football players from '90-ties shall participate, from the golden generation of Prishtina, and also Albanian football players who have migrated to Diaspora. ■



Minister Krasniqi met the new leadership of the Kosovo Basketball Federation



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, hosted in a meeting the new leadership of basketball in Kosovo headed by President of Basketball Federation of Kosovo, Erolld Belegu. In this introductory meeting it was discussed about further cooperation, achievements in this sport in our country and the duties and challenges in the future for the basketball of Kosovo with particular emphasis on increase of quality and internationalisation with full rights in respective European and world federations of this sport.

Minister congratulated the President Erolld Belegu and the Board of BFK for their election in chairmanship of Kosovo basketball and expressed his confidence that during this mandate they will manage to advance this well-known sport, in particular at working with new generations and dignitary representation in the international arena. In this aspect, Minister Krasniqi provided his and MCYD full readiness to help BFK.

Whereas the president of BFK, Erolld Belegu thanked the minister Krasniqi for his welcoming and for the readiness for support, and expressed his certitude that in the future as well KFB will be supported by MCYS. The president Belegu also informed the minister Krasniqi regarding the activities and the plans for the future in function of improvement of conditions and increase of quality of Kosovar basketball.

The two agreed that representation of our country with two teams of basketball in Balkans League is a hope that this sport shall demonstrate the adequate level in international arena and that this will be a good step towards breaking of existing barriers in basketball also. ■



Minister Krasniqi welcomed the international volleyball player Adriatik Kajtazi

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Memli Krasniqi, hosted in a meeting the Kosovar athlete Adriatik Kajtazi, volleyball player playing with the national representation of Albania since 2008 and also as a successful volleyball player playing in the club Qatar SC in Doha of Qatar.

Minister Krasniqi congratulated the volleyball player Adriatik Kajtazi for his successes achieved in this sport, but also for earlier successes when he played in Kosovo, in Macedonia, and also by representing the national representation of Albania. Minister Krasniqi estimated that his example in engage-



ment and motivation he has for sports work must be followed also by other volleyball players thus advancing professionally in this sport, considering the successes the volleyball player like Adriatik achieve, in general influence on improvement of the image of our country in the world, thus making a further step towards internationalisation also of this sport and other sports developed in Kosovo.

Whereas the volleyball player Adriatik Kajtazi thanked the minister for welcoming and for the support from MCYS, and also expressed his gratitude for the interest expressed regarding his career. Kajtazi informed Minister Krasniqi in detail for the success achieved till now in his career as a volleyball player and for his future plans.

Adriatik Kajtazi in November 2011 left the club of Shkëndia in Tetova signing a new contract with Qatar Sport Club of the capital city of Qatar, Doha. Adriatik was earlier a volleyball player of champion teams like Mabetex, Studenti of Tirana, Pallavollo Lugano, etc. ■



**DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S BUILDING
(Kaymakams' Building); Century XVIII;
Location: Gjilan.**

Deputy Minister Hajdin Abazi attends the closing event of the USAID Program of Youth

USAID mission in Kosovo closed with a ceremony the Young Entrepreneurs Program where through the cooperation also with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) they carried out many projects, thus the young Kosovars benefited in vocational training for entrepreneurship and the support in investment projects through grants.

Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Hajdin Abazi attended this closing ceremony of Young Entrepreneurs Program (YEP) of USAID, where high representatives of this mission in Kosovo attended, young entrepreneurs as well, beneficiary programs and representatives of civil society institutions.

Deputy Minister Abazi on behalf of MCYS Memli Krasniqi congratulated and thanked the representatives of USAID for the work and support they provide to the youth of Kosovo that MCYS has drafted a Strategy and an Action Plan for youth which has been adopted by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. "This strategy now enables us to further



increase cooperation with youth organizations, donors, other local and international institutions and to unite our powers with all stakeholders aiming to support the youth of Kosovo" deputy minister Abazi said.

Deputy Minister also informed the participants for the projects and the work MCYS has carried out in cooperation with local and

international partners, where he emphasized the youth training, allocation of grants, support for entrepreneurship and business development emphasizing in particular the aid from USAID for Young Entrepreneurs Program further adding that the support of MCYS for projects for the youth is going to be continuous aiming to increase in future. ■



Students of elementary school “Hasan Prishtina” visit MCYS



A group of students of the primary school “Hasan Prishtina” from the capital visited the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in an effort to learn more about the work, activities and projects developed and supported by the ministry. The youngsters were hosted by the Secretary General, Veton Firzi, who informed them in detail about the work and the operational structure of the ministry.

The students showed a considerable interest for the work of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports by asking many questions in the area of culture and sports,

ranging from investments and support of the ministry, the establishment of the MCYS to construction of sports fields.

Secretary Firzi informed the

children about the work of ministerial departments and its officers, cooperation with other national institutions as well as agreements that MCYS concluded ministries abroad, bilateral meetings of the Minister Memli Krasniqi and his counterparts abroad.

In addition, students of “Hasan Prishtina”, visited the Kosovo Museum, which hosts the exhibition titled “One Nation, One Culture” as a result of cooperation of the Republic of Kosovo and Albania, where they learned in detail about the archaeological findings unearthed throughout Albanian territories. ■



Tailors Bridge (Ura e Terzive)
15th century, Gjakova



